

STATE SENATOR • HANSEN CLARKE • 1ST DISTRICT

Clarke Press Release

P.O. Box 30036 • Lansing • Michigan • 48909-7536 • 517-373-7346 • Fax: 517-373-5338
E-mail: senhclarke@senate.michigan.gov • www.senate.michigan.gov/dem/SD01



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
SEPTEMBER 29, 2004

CONTACT: STATE SEN. HANSEN CLARKE
PHONE: 517/373-7346

Clarke Says Proposal E Remains Fatally Flawed

LANSING- State Senator Hansen Clarke (D-Detroit) stated today that Proposal E, which would allow the mayor to appoint the Detroit school district CEO, remains fatally flawed despite efforts Wednesday by state lawmakers to resolve whether a new chief executive would have the authority to unilaterally raise taxes.

“Proposal E puts far too much power into the hands of someone who doesn’t answer directly to the people or their elected representatives,” said Sen. Clarke. “If adopted, Proposal E would make Detroit the only school district in the state where the district’s chief administrator is not selected by the school board.”

The Michigan Senate voted today to repeal an existing section of the school code which would have potentially given the CEO the unilateral power to raise an excise fee on the taxpayers of Detroit. Most analysts agree that the existing school code would have allowed the CEO to raise a fee the equivalent of half of the city income tax.

“The fact that the Legislature has already had to intervene to limit the powers of the CEO only illustrates why Proposal E is a bad idea for Detroit,” said Sen. Clarke. “If we agree no single person should have the right to raise taxes then why give one person sole authority to set

education policy or approve all district contracts? That is the traditional role of the school board”

Please Note: An audio file of Senator Clarke commenting on Proposal E can be downloaded at:

<http://www.senate.mi.gov/Audio%20Clips/01-092904.wav>